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Alexander Encourages Local Veterans to Apply for Health Care Services

VA Plans to Reopen Enrollment in its Health Care System

WASHINGTON, D.C. – U.S. Rep. Rodney Alexander, R-Quitman, today encouraged local veterans to apply for health care services. The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) recently announced plans to reopen enrollment in its health care system by July 2009 to about 265,000 veterans whose incomes exceed the current thresholds.

In 2003, the VA suspended enrollment for Priority Group 8 because it was unable to provide all enrolled veterans with timely access to its health care services. Now the VA plans to reopen enrollment for a portion of these veterans without compromising its ability to provide high quality health care services to all who are eligible for care. Congress provided funds in the VA's FY2009 budget to make the expansion possible.

“This decision by the VA marks a great victory in ensuring veterans' access to quality, affordable health care,” said Alexander. **“Our brave men and women who have defended our freedom deserve the best care available. I hope every eligible veteran will utilize these important health care services.”**

To determine whether veterans are eligible under this new regulation and if their income falls within the new 10 percent income threshold guidelines, an enrollment calculator is available online at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/apps/enrollmentcalculator/>.

For more information on VA's changes to the Priority Group 8 restriction, you may visit the VA's Health Care Eligibility and Enrollment website, located at <http://www.va.gov/healtheligibility/eligibility/PG8Relaxation.asp>.

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